

TWENTY-FIRST CONGRESS OF THE AMERICAN  
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

THE TWENTY-FIRST CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union convened in Philadelphia, Pa., Monday evening, November 16, 1903. The business meeting was held in the Council Room, and the public sessions, commencing Tuesday, November 17, and lasting three days, were held in the lecture hall of the Academy of Natural Sciences.

BUSINESS SESSION.—The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. C. Hart Merriam. Nineteen Fellows were present. The Secretary stated that at the opening of the present Congress the membership of the Union numbered 775, constituted as follows: Fellows, 47; Honorary Fellows, 18; Corresponding Fellows, 61; Members, 63; Associates, 586.

During the year the Union lost sixty members, eight by death, seventeen by resignation, and thirty-five for non-payment of dues. The deceased members include one Fellow, one Corresponding Fellow, one Member, and five Associates, as follows: Thomas McIlwraith,<sup>1</sup> a Fellow, and one of the Founders of the Union, who died in Hamilton, Ontario, January 31, 1903, in his 79th year; Dr. Gustav F. R. von Radde,<sup>2</sup> a Corresponding Fellow, who died early in 1903 at Tiflis, Russia, in the 72d year of his age; John N. Clark,<sup>3</sup> a Member, who died in Saybrook, Conn., January 13, 1903, at the age of 72; and the following Associates: Ludwig Kumlien,<sup>4</sup> who died in Milton, Wis., Dec. 4, 1902, in his 50th year; Edward S. Waters,<sup>5</sup> who died at Holyoke, Mass., Dec. 27, 1902, aged 71; Thomas E. Slevin,<sup>6</sup> who died in San Francisco, Calif., Dec. 23, 1902, in his 32d year; George H. Ready,<sup>7</sup> who

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<sup>1</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Auk*, XX, p. 242; also Memorial Address in the present number.

<sup>2</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, XX, pp. 458, 459.

<sup>3</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, XX, pp. 242, 243.

<sup>4</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, XX, pp. 93, 94.

<sup>5</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, XX, p. 243.

<sup>6</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, XX, pp. 326, 327.

<sup>7</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, XX, p. 327.

died in Santa Cruz, Calif., March 20, 1903, in his 45th year; and Prof. Wilber C. Knight,<sup>1</sup> who died at Laramie, Wyoming, July 28, 1903, in the 45th year of his age.

The report of the Treasurer showed the finances of the Union to be in a satisfactory condition, much better than ever before.

Charles B. Cory was elected President; Charles F. Batchelder and E. W. Nelson, Vice-Presidents; John H. Sage, Secretary; Jonathan Dwight, Jr., Treasurer; Frank M. Chapman, Ruthven Deane, Witmer Stone, A. K. Fisher, Thos. S. Roberts, William Dutcher, and C. W. Richmond, members of the Council.

Dr. Samuel W. Woodhouse, of Philadelphia, Pa.; Prof. Dean C. Worcester, of Manila, P. I.; Dr. E. C. Hellmayr, of Munich; Dr. Emil A. Goeldi, of Pará, Brazil; Dr. Peter Sucshkin, of Moscow, and Dr. Herluf Winge, of Copenhagen, were elected Corresponding Fellows. One hundred and four Associates were elected, and the following eight persons were elected to the class of Members, namely: Prof. Erwin H. Barbour, of Lincoln, Nebraska; C. William Beebe, of New York City; Edward H. Forbush, of Wareham, Mass.; Benjamin T. Gault, of Glen Ellyn, Ill.; Geo. Spencer Morris, of Philadelphia, Pa.; Robert E. Snodgrass, of Stanford University, Calif.; Dr. Reuben M. Strong, of Chicago, Ill.; and Dr. Robert H. Wolcott, of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Drs. Allen, Dwight, Merriam and Richmond, and Messrs. Brewster, Ridgway and Stone, were reëlected 'Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of North American Birds.'

**PUBLIC SESSION. *First Day.***—The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Batchelder. The papers read during the morning session were as follows:

A Memorial Address on Thomas McIlwraith, a Fellow, by Dr. A. K. Fisher.

'Notes on the Bird Colonies of the California and Oregon Coasts,' by Dr. T. S. Palmer.

'New Bird Studies in Old Delaware,' by Samuel N. Rhoads and C. J. Pennock.

'Notes on the Protected Birds on the Maine Coast, with Relation to Certain Economic Questions,' by Arthur H. Norton. Read, in the absence of the author, by Mr. Dutcher.

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<sup>1</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Auk.*, XX, pp. 457, 458.

'Two Neglected Ornithologists — John K. Townsend and William Gambel,' by Mr. Witmer Stone. Remarks followed by Dr. Merriam and the Chair.

The papers of the afternoon session, all illustrated by lantern slides, were :

'Exhibition of Lantern Slides of Young Raptorial Birds, photographed by Thomas H. Jackson, near West Chester, Pa.' Explained by Mr. Stone.

'Views of Farallone Bird Life,' by Frank M. Chapman.

'The Bird Rookeries of Cape Sable and the Florida Keys,' by the Rev. Herbert K. Job.

'A Winter Trip in Mexico,' by E. W. Nelson.

*Second Day.*—The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Batchelder. The papers read during the morning session were :

'The Æsthetic Sense in Birds,' by Henry Oldys.

'Nesting Habits of the Whip-poor-will,' by Miss Mary Mann Miller. Remarks followed by Messrs. Beebe and Job and Mrs. Styer.

'Some Nova Scotia Birds,' by Dr. Spencer Trotter. Remarks followed by Prof. Cooke, Drs. Dwight and Merriam, and Messrs. Todd, Rhoads, and Fleming.

'Some Variations among North American Thrushes,' by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr.

'Warbler Migration in the Spring of 1903,' by Prof. W. W. Cooke. Remarks followed by Messrs. Baily, Rhoads, Brewster, Job, Trotter, Powell, Dutcher, and the Chair.

'A Reply to Recent Strictures on American Biologists,' by Dr. Leonhard Stejneger.

The following papers — all illustrated by lantern slides — were given at the afternoon session, viz. : 'Variations in the Speed of Migration,' by Prof. W. W. Cooke.

'An Ornithological Excursion to the Pacific,' by Frank M. Chapman.

'Bird Life on Laysan Island,' by Walter K. Fisher (presented, in the absence of the author, by Dr. A. K. Fisher).

'Ten Days in North Dakota,' by Wm. L. Baily.

*Third Day.*—The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Nelson. Before proceeding to the reading of papers resolu-

tions were adopted thanking the Academy of Natural Sciences for the use of a hall for a place of meeting for the Union, and for other courtesies extended; to the Local Committee and other Philadelphia ornithologists for the cordial welcome and most generous hospitality shown visiting members and friends of the Union, and to the Zoölogical Society of Philadelphia for its kind invitation to visit the Gardens of the Society.

The following resolution of thanks to Dr. J. A. Allen for twenty years' services as Editor of 'The Auk' was passed:

"WHEREAS, for a period of twenty years Dr. J. A. Allen has performed the laborious duties of Editor of 'The Auk,' the official publication of the American Ornithologists' Union; and

"WHEREAS, by reason of his ability and training as an Editor, and his high standing as an ornithologist, he has brought 'The Auk' to the front rank among the ornithological publications of the world; be it

"RESOLVED, that the American Ornithologists' Union hereby extends to Dr. Allen its appreciative and grateful thanks for his services."

A resolution of thanks to William Dutcher, for many years Treasurer of the Union, was also adopted:

"RESOLVED, that the thanks of the American Ornithologists' Union be extended to Mr. William Dutcher for his long and arduous services as Treasurer."

These resolutions will be engrossed and presented, respectively, to Dr. Allen and Mr. Dutcher.

The following papers were read:

'The Exaltation of the Subspecies,' by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr. Remarks followed by Drs. Merriam and Stejneger, Messrs. Brewster and Stone, and the Chair.

'Bird Life at Cape Charles, Va.,' by Geo. Spencer Morris.

'The Origin of Migration,' by P. A. Tavernier. In the absence of the author it was read by Dr. Palmer. Remarks followed by Dr. Trotter.

'Yosemite Valley Birds,' by Otto Widmann. Read by Dr. Dwight in the absence of the author. Remarks followed by Dr. Merriam.

The fifth paper 'Mortality among Young Birds due to Exces-

sive Rains,' by B. S. Bowdish. Read by Mr. Stone, in the absence of the author. Remarks followed by Messrs. Stone, Coggins and Baily.

The papers of the afternoon session were: 'Some Birds of Northern Chihuahua,' by Dr. W. E. Hughes.

'Collecting Permits: Their History, Objects and Restrictions,' by Dr. T. S. Palmer.

The following papers were read by title:

'Nesting Habits of Florida Herons,' by A. C. Bent.

'The Spring Migration of 1903 at Rochester, N. Y.,' by E. H. Eaton.

'San Clemente Island and its Birds,' by Geo. F. Breninger.

'A Contribution to the Natural History of the Cuckoo,' by Dr. M. R. Levenson.

As the concluding paper of the day, Mr. Wm. Dutcher, Chairman of the Committee on 'Protection of North American Birds,' presented the report of his Committee for the previous year.

The next meeting of the Union will be held in Cambridge, Mass., commencing November 28, 1904.

The Congress was most successful, the papers presented being of a high order, and the attendance of members larger than ever before.

JNO. H. SAGE,  
Secretary.

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## GENERAL NOTES.

**White-winged Scoter in Colorado.**—The undersigned takes this chance to record the occurrence of another White-winged Scoter (*Oidemia deglandi*) in Colorado. The bird, a mature female, was given to the writer by E. L. Bostwick of Denver, who secured the specimen Oct. 11, 1903, at Loveland, Colo. This makes the ninth record, so far as the writer knows, for Colorado.—W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*

**Occurrence of the Knot (*Tringa canutus*) at San Diego, California.**—Three specimens of the Knot, taken by Mr. H. W. Marsden, have recently